

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 24, 28 and 30, and cancel claims 27, 33 and 34, as set forth in the listing of claims that follows which will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

(insert listing of marked-up claims)

1-23 (Canceled)

24. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein the end portion of said catalytic converter shell is fixedly ~~disposed~~ cast in place within said manifold wall ~~recess~~ such that said catalytic converter shell is locked into position within said manifold wall to form a gas tight seal therebetween.

25. (Previously Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said manifold wall comprises a manifold wall thickness greater than a catalytic converter shell thickness of said catalytic converter shell.

26. (Previously Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 25, wherein said manifold wall thickness is 3 mm to 4 mm, and said catalytic converter shell thickness is 1mm to 2 mm.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Currently Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said end portion of said catalytic converter shell comprises a retention feature selected from the group consisting of bumps, flares, grooves, and any combination comprising at least one of the foregoing.

29. (Previously Amended) The catalytic converter subassembly of Claim 30, wherein said manifold comprises cast iron and said catalytic converter shell comprises stainless steel.

30. (Currently Amended) A catalytic converter subassembly comprising:

an exhaust manifold formed as a single casting comprising a collector body manifold wall including a thickened section defining an outlet port;

at least one recess formed in said wall substantially concentrically circumscribing said outlet port;

a catalytic converter shell, wherein an end portion of said catalytic converter shell is ~~disposed~~ cast in place within the thickened section of said manifold wall ~~recess~~ circumscribing each outlet port to effect a ~~seal~~ sealed interconnection therebetween;

a catalyst substrate disposed in said catalytic converter shell;

a mat support material disposed between said catalytic converter shell and said catalyst substrate; and

a mat protection ring disposed substantially concentrically within said shell and including opposed first and second ends, wherein said first end of said mat protection ring is ~~disposed in~~ cast in place within the thickened section of said manifold wall recess circuferentially intermediate the end portion of the catalytic converter shell and said outlet port, and the second end of said mat protection ring ~~penetrates~~ penetrating at least a portion of said mat support material.

- 31. (Canceled)
- 32. (Canceled)
- 33. (Canceled)
- 34. (Canceled)